July 8, 2021

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN LEE COUNTY LIFTS HEALTH ALERT AT ORANGE RIVER-MANATEE PARK



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Lee County, Fla. – The Florida Department of Health in Lee County (DOH) has lifted a Health Alert at the Orange River-Manatee Park based on water sampling results from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). DEP conducted sampling in the area and did not detect the presence of microcystin toxins.

When toxins are detected, DOH recommends individuals using the boat ramp avoid contact with the water. DEP will continue to monitor the Orange River-Manatee Park and post updates on their website.

Blue-green algae can cause gastrointestinal effects if swallowed. Children and pets are especially vulnerable, so keeping them away from the water during a bloom is especially important. Additional information on blue-green algae is available on the Department of Health's website. If you wish to report a new algae bloom please visit DEP's Algal Bloom Monitoring & Response webpage.

DEP, the five water management districts, DOH, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services all work together to respond to algal blooms. DEP has been closely monitoring and testing algal blooms and will continue to respond to any new reports.

About the Florida Department of Health

The Department, nationally accredited by the <u>Public Health Accreditation Board</u>, works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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